

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting
July 18-19, 2002
The Madren Center
Clemson, South Carolina

Members Present:

July 18: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Senator Leatherman, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mr. Wilson

July 19: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Hoag, Senator Leatherman, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Tenenbaum, Rep. Walker, Mr. Wilson

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting. New members were introduced. Mr. Staton outlined four objectives for the meeting: (1) the EOC members should come together as a team; (2) the EOC members should develop a deeper understanding of issues; (3) the EOC members should establish objectives for 2002-03; and (4) EOC members should renew their commitment to improving the achievement of SC's students and schools.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

The minutes of the June 20 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. **Subcommittee Reports**

Each subcommittee chair reviewed the work of the previous year as outlined in the summaries provided in retreat materials.

IV. **Discussion of the Long Range Plan and Selected Issues**

- A. **Sufficient Funding:** Mrs. Barton reviewed the paper on sufficient funding included in the retreat materials. She reviewed the three models for which simulations had been developed and the results of the simulations. Members engaged in a lengthy discussion of revenue sources, the balance of state and local financial support, the need for highly qualified teachers in every classroom, the need to use deep solutions rather than gimmicks, strategies to compensate the very best teachers, teacher preparation and ways to accelerate the rate of improvement.

[The discussion extended through the afternoon and was interrupted to hear from three visiting administrators: Dr. John Tindal, Dr. Valerie Harrison and Dr. LaVerne Davis]

Dr. La Verne Davis, principal of St. Helena Elementary, demonstrated structure used at St. Helena Elementary Schools. She showcased instructional materials, weekly assessments, discipline strategies and motivational supports provided.

Dr. John Tindal, Superintendent of Clarendon District Two, addressed the view from the superintendency. He outlined major challenges including working with governing boards, having the human and financial capital, the need to recruit and retain teachers, the need for time for professional development, and

performance pay. He recommended long-term manpower planning to make certain we have teachers for every position each year. Dr. Valerie Harrison, Superintendent of Florence District Four, outlined processes for aligning the written, taught and tested curriculum including instructional supervision. She outlined use of the benchmark tests in Florence Four and the use of the data to promote immediate reteaching. She also indicated that her district used signing bonuses for new teachers.

[The meeting broke for dinner to resume on Friday morning.]

- B. Review of Technical Assistance Programs: Dr. Horne reviewed the materials on technical assistance programs in other states, outlining issues of access and state v. local control. He also raised the issue of work in borderline districts and sustaining improvement when state supplemental funding was no longer available.
- C. Pathways to Prosperity: Dr. Anderson outlined the report and the implementation study process. Three EOC members (Rep. Walker, Mr. Staton and Mr. Wilson) participate on the implementation teams. Members raised issues of the need for earlier interventions for students at risk, character education, the creation of another governing body, the additional time some students require and high expectations for all students.
- D. Assessment Program Update: Dr. Anderson provided information to members on the implementation of the assessments and two recommendations: changes in the content of the Exit Exam and changes in the cyclical review cycle. The EOC deferred a recommendation on the Exit Exam but endorsed a seven, rather than four, -year cyclical review cycle.

V. **Discussion of Collecting, Reporting and Using Data**

The discussion was deferred.

VI. **Development of Objectives for 2002-03**

Members worked through a process to determine objectives for the 2002-03 year. Discussion materials have been provided to the staff for development of draft objectives to be discussed at the August EOC meeting.

VII. **Adjournment**

Mr. Staton reviewed the meeting objectives and indicated he felt the EOC had accomplished its intent for the retreat. He thanked everyone for their cooperation and wished them safe travel home.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.